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S P E C I A L I S S U E

- \*\* AN IMPORTANT INTERVIEW HELD BY "SAUT-AL-THAWRA" WITH  
COMRADE ABDEL AZIZ AL-QADHI, CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PEOPLE'S FRONT FOR T H E  
LIBERATION OF OMAN ON THE OCCASION OF THE 16th  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE IGNITION OF THE GLORIOUS  
REVOLUTION OF 9th JUNE.

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CENTRE FOR ARAB GULF STUDIES

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IMPORTANT CONVERSATION WITH COMRADE ABDEL AZIZ AL-QADHI  
 CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PEOPLE'S FRONT  
FOR THE LIBERATION OF OMAN BY SAUT AL-THAWRA CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the ignition of the 9th June revolution, the correspondent of the Omani Saut al-Thawra held an important conversation with Comrade Abdel Aziz al-Qadhi, Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman in which he shed light on the most important and lively and stressing issues in the Omani revolution especially in connection with the extensive preparations for the convening of the third general national congress of P.F.L.O. and the attitude of the front towards the alliances.

The conversation also dealt with most important questions and problems now taking place all over the arena of the Arabian Gulf and Peninsula, in the light of the formation of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the council of the Sheikhs and kings, the dimensions of this council and the circumstances under which it was formed. The conversation also dealt with the current situation in Oman under the treasens and forfeitures committed by the puppet Qaboos regime and its mishandling of national sovereignty and its fall in full in the laps of American imperialism and increase of the imperialist influence in our country. The following is the text of this important conversation:-

Q.1 - While preparing for convening the third general national congress of P.F.L.O., what are the stressing tasks lying before the Omani revolution at this stage?

A.1 - Before replying to this question I wish first to seize the opportunity of the 16th anniversary of the ignition of the glorious 9th June revolution, to extend to all masses of our brave Omani people warm greetings on this prominent national day in the history of our people, and pay tribute to all masses of our Omani people, with all its national groups, which backed the struggle of the P.F.L.O. and incurred throughout the past sixteen years of their struggle great sacrifices for the victory of the objectives of the revolution for an independent and free Oman having no foreign bases in it. On this occasion I wish to pay warm tribute to the mothers and fathers of the martyrs of 9th June revolution who fell on the road of the revolution while fighting for the victory of its objectives and introduced the dearest thing they possess for achieving the freedom of our people and independence of our country and its progress and development. I extend tribute to the fathers,



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mothers and parents of the political detainees who suffer from different types of physical and psychological torture in the prisons of the puppet regime and its clientelles and demonstrate a leading and good example of their steadfastness in the face of all these methods and crystallise the concrete combat spirit of the masses of our Omani people. I wish to affirm to all our masses on this occasion that we are under our promise and vow that we will introduce more and more sacrifices by the side of our people for the victory of the objectives of the revolution, by the side of our people for the realisation of the independence and freedom of our people and country and that all difficulties no matter how great they are and all obstacles being placed by the forces of imperialism and reaction before the development of the revolution, cannot stand against the realisation of its development and against the realisation of the victory of its objectives.

We are completely confident of the future of the struggle of our people, and the future of the struggle of the front and are fully prepared to incur all sacrifices depending for this in the first place upon the vast and huge combat potentialities existing within the ranks of our people and upon our people's full support for our struggle and its direct participation in this struggle. Our celebration of this occasion every year is only for re-emphasising these important facts. It is an occasion for celebrating the march of the past sixteen years with all victories that coupled it and all sacrifices incurred by our people along with the good and excellent guts and capabilities to continue the revolution and the struggle for wresting its just rights. On this occasion I pay tribute and homage to the souls of the martyrs who fell on the road of the revolution and pay tribute to all those who incurred sacrifices on all fronts of the struggle for the victory of the objectives of the revolution so that Oman becomes free, independent and democratic and insolidarity with the struggle of our Arab nation. Wishing you and our struggle new progress and new victories.

As to what came in the question, certainly there are before us huge, numerous and complicated tasks but we are fully confident of our ability to accomplish these tasks and to reach the results outlined in our programme for solving them. As to the most important tasks lying before us now at this circumstance in particular, these include the task accomplishing and making a success the convening of the general national congress. This task at present is regarded by us as the central task

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upon which our effort is concentrated on the consideration that we are on the doorsteps of a very important congress coming under extraordinary and serious circumstances being passed by the homeland. Relatively a long period passed since the convening of the last national congress of the PFLO which was held in 1974, and many very important developments took place during the period in between that congress and the current period in which we are now making preparations for the coming congress, important and serious developments at the level of the homeland, very important and great developments in the area surrounding us and in the world. We are now directly facing American imperialism which concentrated its bases in our country and secured extensive facilities from the puppet regime in addition to the bases and is now advancing more and more towards transforming our country in full into an advance base for it and for the NATO countries in the area. This congress of ours comes after the elapse of four years on the implementation of the physical transition programme of the front which is confronting the solution of the internal tasks and make ripe the internal circumstances of the front and internal conditions of the revolution at all political, organisational, military and other levels.

We in fact attach great importance to the convening of this congress which is entrusted with very great tasks, upon which will depend to a great extent the combat future of our people and the front and the political future of our country during the forthcoming years. Preparations are still underway for the convening of this congress and we have cut an important distance on the road and are completely confident that the congress would be at the level cherished by our masses and our militants and in the standard of the delicate and serious stage being passed by the homeland and that it would open the road before a new and developed stage in the struggle of the front at all levels/.

The second stressing task now is also the task of progressing more and more in the efforts being made by us for building the broadest national alliance front in our country for unifying the ranks of all nationalists and all forces of our people hostile to the bases of imperialism and cherishing freedom and in solidarity with the causes of the Arab struggle and hostile to Camp David.

The achievement of this task, the construction of the extensive national resistance in our country and unification of the ranks of all nationalists and all national, political, religious and other groups and personalities.

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and the meeting of all these on a common base picking up the stressing and vital objectives standing before our people now and the basic demands laid down by the collection of current developments in our country and the surrounding areas, is basic and major task standing before us at present. The front has cut a distance in its endeavours and serious efforts for accomplishing this lively and central task in the whole of our struggle at the present stage. In addition to these two basic tasks, there is also another task. This is the achievement of further successes and further progress on the road of completing the entire tasks outlined in our internal transition programme, the realisation of further progress for further strengthening and making ripe and revolutionising the self-conditions of the front at all political, intellectual, organisational, military, massive and other levels. There are still certain aspects which need from us greater efforts for realising the complete implementation of the tasks defined in our physical transition programme. I can say that these three tasks are the stressing basic tasks standing before us now while preparing for the convening of the third general national congress of the front.

Q.2 - Comrade Abdel Aziz. At the end of last year - 1980 - an expanded meeting was held for the commands and cadres of the front to look into two important documents brought down by the central command for dialogue after their discussion within the base echelon of the front and the laying down of remarks on them. How do you view the future of the combat activity in Oman in the light of this and what is the relation of these documents with the forthcoming general national congress?

A.2 - From all our analysis and studies on the political, economic and social conditions existing in Oman and through our understanding of the successes and accomplishments achieved by us at the level of revolutionising and developing our self conditions in the front and through the progress of general development in the conflict between the forces of imperialism and the freedom, independence and progress-loving peoples and forces in the entire area that surrounds us at Arab level and international level and through all this we can say with confidence that the horizons of the struggle and the horizons of development of the revolution and victory of its objectives in our homeland, are wide, extensive and huge horizons and we have great and unshakeable confidence in the future of our struggle and the capabilities of our people and huge potentialities objectively existing for developing the

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of the struggle of our people for wresting its freedom in full and complete independence and realisation of the development and progress of our country. The reforms programme laid down by the British advisers and carried out by them in cooperation with the local puppet rulers and with puppet Qaboos since 1970 upto now, could not upto now, as practical facts proved, extinguish the blaze of the revolution in our people, to extinguish the love for freedom, independence and democracy in the conscience of our people and in the aspirations and aspirations of our Omani masses. The government of the British advisers and their puppet Qaboos attempted to introduce some reforms and incur some forfeitures in the administrative economic and social spheres, hoping that this would cut the road for the forthcoming development of the revolution and that by implementation of this programme they would empty the revolution of its concepts and the justifications for its condemnation and existence. They also hope that by such partial reforms, with all negativisms that coupled these reforms-in-shape, they could in fact divert the attention of our people from its basic cause for which it is fighting; this is the realisation of freedom and independence on the consideration that they constitute the dearest demand and most valuable thing to the masses of our Omani people.

Practical exercise and practical enactment of the reforms programme proved the erroneous nature of the bets made and expected by the imperialists and the government of the British advisers and their puppet Qaboos. They were unable upto now to secure massive popular support for their programme and were unable upto now to create a massive political base for their rule and for the puppet regime in the homeland. Our people, apart from the nature of the reforms so far accomplished or those having positive or negative results, are looking in the first place to the realisation of its freedom and independence and to getting rid of the foreign advisers and of the foreign bases, of getting rid of the enslavement agreements, of getting rid of foreign influence and hegemony with all economic, political and military shapes, and to realisation of complete freedom and independence for Oman and to place it on the road of freedevlopment, the road of a non-aligned external policy rejecting military pacts and rejecting the construction of foreign bases in our country, rejecting the transformation of our country into a base for aggression on the nearby brotherly and friendly peoples, rejecting to transform our country into



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into an instrument in the hands of the forces of imperialism for implementing their plans for interference and military adventures, this basic cause which did not come into the mind of those who planned and engineered the reforms programme and implemented it in Oman day after day and year after year. During the three recent years, in particular, factors of development in the massive political movement, and in the national movement in our country started to grow more and more inasmuch as the Anglo-Qaboos reforms programme exposed further and further its ills, its limited energies and its inability in fact to solve the real problems of our masses, not only in realising freedom and independence, but even failed in solving the genuine problems of our masses at the economic and social levels and at the level of the living conditions of the different and various groups of our people.. The British advisers and the puppet regime are no more able to extend anything basic and fundamental to our people at the level of economic, social and services reforms,; they are unable to keep our people for a longer period in a state of expectation and in a state of attraction to the illumination of fake reforms undertaken by them. So the roots of wrath, indignation and revolution started to grow more and more within the different ranks of our people, at a time in which the wounds of the regime started to appear and spread up and its shortcomings started to appear crystal clear more than any time before. This is one thing. The other thing is the treacherous policies and treasons committed by the regime during the recent years which include the further strengthening of relations with British colonialism, permission of British imperialism to increase its military presence in our country in the light of the fall of the regime of the Shah. They also include the development of the relations with the American Administration and the American imperialism in a fast manner during the recent three years which were crowned with the conclusion of what is called as the economic and military Cooperation agreement between the puppet regime and the American Administration, which provides at the end for the transformation of our country into a base for American imperialism and its allies and the opening of our territories, waters and islands before the American rapid deployment forces and their bases. This is in addition to the flagrant treacherous stands of the regime in a very horrible manner towards our national issues, towards the Arab-Israeli conflict and towards the Palestinian cause, which stands

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are well known to all. These stands also includes its endless stand by the side of Sadat and its full support for the Camp David accords and continuous deviation from the resolutions of the ninth and tenth Arab summits. This regime is still continuing its attitude at all these levels. It is continuing its attitude towards developing relations more and more with American imperialism and towards bringing more British commanders and officers. It is still continuing its attitude towards further establishing American military hegemony and interference in our country and further development of the American bases in Oman. The regime is still continuing its attitude firmly by the side of Camp David and against the Palestinian cause and by the side of Sadat and Israel. Such stands and such continuation of treasons and continuous mishandling of the simplest values of solidarity with the Arab struggle, and solidarity with the Palestinian cause, would undoubtedly play a great role inrealising the unity of our people for resisting the American imperialist and British military presence in our country, the unity of our people in the struggle for wresting its full freedom and complete independence and adoption of a non-aligned external policy, an external policy in solidarity with the issues of the Arab struggle topped by the cause of Palestine. I wish to say that the factors and reasons for the development of the struggle of our people in future exist objectively. They even exist in the stands of the regime which helps, through these stands, open wide and broad horizons for the growth of the struggle of our people, realiation of its unity in national resistance, realisation of its unity in the struggle for expelling all foreign forces and bases from our country, realisation of its unity in the struggle for freedom, for democracy, and for constitutional legislative institutions in the country and realisation of its unity for liberation from linkage with military pacts and to stand by the side of the issues of the Arab nation and by the side of the issues of the Arab struggle against Israel and by the side of the Palestinian cause.

Day after day there are revealed amidst the ranks of our people new potentialities and new signs for development of the national struggle in our country with all its shapes. Day after day it is piling up new forces and collecting together new energies for developing its struggle for realising these objectives. The evidence for this is the increase of the support of our people for the front, the increase of the sympathy of our people with its different groups with the revolution and its increasing rally around its objectives, programmes and national



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and democratic slogans in spite of all methods and means adopted by the regime for achieving results opposite to these and for buying the conscience of our people and the national stands of our people and to realise political stability as they call it and as they want it. The stability based on acceptance of such stands, and the stability based on recognition of the imperialist military presence in our country, the American and British military presence of course. This is a thing that cannot be realised, since the practical experiment and practical exercise during the past years proved that the calculations of the imperialists and reactionaries in this connection were mistaken and that our people will remain adhering strongly to its objectives and legitimate demands for realising freedom, independence and democracy. Our people cannot be deceived by the fake reforms and fictitious forfeitures incurred by the regime for abandoning its basic cause, the cause of the national struggle for freedom, independence and democracy.

What proves the correctness of this talk and the growing combat energies of our people, are the successive arrests which the regime began exercising during the recent years and which include the arrests carried out last year, and those carried out at the beginning of this year and covered a considerable number of members of our people who oppose expansion of the policy based on support of the Camp David conspiracy and the repressive and oppressive detective shape of the regime and who cherish personal freedom and general and democratic freedoms. These arrest campaigns are a factual proof of the fears of the regime and panic from the growth of the massive indignation and wrath, the growth of the national and patriotic consciousness of our people as the days pass by all prove that the recent has carried out recently the adoption of the policy of gathering together the peasants and shepherds in communes in the form of strategic villages hoping that by this way they are now adopting in the area of Dhofar they will be able to kill the national spirit in our people, to control and watch their activities and limit them, to isolate them from having any effect in the development of the conditions in the area. These are examples of the evidences on the growth of the national political consciousness amidst the ranks of our people, the growth of the energies of our people and the combat forms adopted by it for protesting, objecting and resisting the treacherous

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policies adopted by the Muscat regime and expanded more and more whether in connection with the direct national issues of ours or with the Arab national issues.

As regards the link of the documents, on which we held dialogues during the past period, with the general national congress, in fact the status of these documents or in particular the two documents mentioned by the question and the conduction of dialogues on them in all echelons and at all organisational standards in the front, was in itself one of the steps of preparations for the general national congress. These two documents dealt with analysis of the political conditions in our country in a deeper manner and the development of the political conditions in the surrounding area at both Arab and international levels and the look of the front towards these developments and their link with the national struggle in our country and in our area. They also dealt with the previous experiment of the revolution and diagnosed the most important positivisms and accomplishments and the most important mistakes and negativisms and their political reasons and also defined and specified the horizons of the forthcoming combat activity and the general lines in our forthcoming combat strategy and the combat forms for which endeavours and progress are to be made for providing the organisational, political and suitable military bases for them. All this was in fact part of the process of organising heavy and concentrated dialogues amidst the ranks of the front prior to convening the general national congress of the front for which we are now making preparations and have cut a long distance on these preparations. Certainly, the documents, or the two documents brought down for dialogue in the past, are not the same documents to be submitted to the congress, since the front will submit to its national congress and discuss new documents and more than one document. But these documents stand at the end on the same basic trends and basic lines in our forthcoming combat strategy. But, we in the forthcoming national congress, would discuss these issues with greater broadness through the type of documents that will be put up in the congress and in the light of the summaries with which we came out from the dialogues on the two previous documents. The congress will also discuss the document on the new internal regulations of the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman and the document on the political programme of the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman in addition to a collection of other reports and documents. Undoubtedly, the two documents dealt with by the question have played a very important role in the process



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of preparations for the general national congress and constituted the political and ideological base for the new documents now under preparation and accomplishment for submission to the national congress.

Reference is to be made here that during the period lying between their planning of the two dialogue documents and the present period, there occurred important new developments whether at the local level or at the level of the general policy in the area surrounding us and in the international arena. These new developments which occurred at all levels must be dealt with by the documents which will be submitted to the congress in addition to the credence of consideration to the summaries and results with which we came out from the dialogue process on the two documents in other spheres connected with our political and ideological line and our combat strategy.

Q.3 - Comrade Abdel Aziz, you have affirmed in more than one talk, the importance of establishing the broad Omani national front as a stressing necessity in this stage for accomplishing the national tasks? What are your imaginations on the bases upon which this front will be established and how?

A.3 - Unification of the ranks of our people in the national struggle, in the struggle for wresting freedom, independence and democracy, in the struggle for a peaceful and non-aligned Oman, in the struggle for an Oman in solidarity with the issues of our Arab nation, and for realisation of the unity of the Omani national rank, is regarded at present a vital and stressing question and one of the most important tasks upon which stands the front in its struggle and endeavours at the present time. We did not speak about this topic only for the sake of merely speaking about or referring to the importance of this question in the struggle of our people and the political future of our country, but we have coupled this talk also with practical efforts and practical contacts and steps for implementing and executing this demand or realising this great objective in the history of our people and our national struggle. We have not been content with putting up the slogan and motto of the united national front, but remained waiting when this front will be established as we believe that this is our assignment, in the first place, in the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman, and that there lies on our shoulders the greatest role and biggest responsibility on us.

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We do not expect this issue to be achieved without very great efforts and extensive and sound steps being made by us for realising this objective. We feel at present the existence of extensive and encouraging potentialities for realising this vital and central assignment standing before our people as regards the bases upon which to establish the national unity or the united front or the national democratic alliance in our country. The most important thing in our calculation as regards this question is the agreement on a joint political programme, the agreement on a political base expressing the current vital basic objectives standing before our people, a political base picking up the most important demands and the most important objectives laid down by the political situation existing in our country and the political situation in the neighbouring area. The front has far-flung and remote strategic objectives, but in the face of the circumstances being passed by Oman, there remain very stressing basic objectives in the existing situation, very stressing and basic objectives for confronting the huge and serious dangers being faced by our people at the present time. Therefore, it is necessary to find a joint minimum-limit programme, a joint political programme picking up soundly and accurately the basic demands and stressing basic objectives laid down by the current developments, a political programme that might be a joint dividend for all Omani nationalists, for all Omanis loving freedom and democracy, for the legislative and constitutional institutions, for all Omanis opposing and rejecting the foreign bases and military plans of imperialism in our country and in the area, for all Omanis looking for an Oman free of bases and enjoying even the minimum-limit of public freedoms, personal and democratic freedoms, an Oman standing by the side of its sister Arab countries, and by the side of the peoples of the Arab area in the struggle against zionism and imperialism. So, we say that the basic and fundamental thing in the first place is the agreement on a joint political programme, the agreement on a joint minimum-limit programme picking up the basic objectives which constitute the biggest and joint worry of all national forces of our people with all its national classes and groups and all Omani national personalities, political they be or religious, including the nationalist tribal sheikhs and tribal sheikhs whose conscience cannot be bought by the regime upto now, the tribal sheikhs who look for freedom and democracy in Oman. All these persons and all these national groups of our people and all Omanis



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national groups of our people, and all Omanis looking for freedoms, must agree on a joint political programme, a programme constituting in fact the joint worry for these and the political base for their struggle for realising the joint objectives of theirs and the major vital objectives of our people at the present time. The front had already defined three basic demands around which the national struggle of our people is to concentrate at present. These demands include the expulsion of all foreign forces and bases from our country - American and British -, abolition of the 4th June, 1980 agreement which was concluded with American imperialism and which allows the United States of America to establish bases in our country and obtain extensive facilities in the Omani ports and airports. The second demand is to struggle for wresting the rights of our people for personal freedoms, and public freedoms, creation of security guarantees for the citizens, to grant the different groups of our people their right for establishing their own massive organisations for defending their trade union rights, creation of certain legislative institutions in addition to the necessity of adopting a non-aligned foreign policy, a foreign policy hostile to imperialist military pacts, a foreign policy in solidarity with the issues of the Arab struggle and in particular the issue of Palestine. The front had already laid down these demands and is still putting them up on the consideration that they constitute the joint worry for our people at the present time and constitute the vital basic demands and might be the cornerstones or foundation for any complete joint political programme for national unity in our country and for national resistance by the Omani people. Then, the first question and basic one in the first place, is agreement on a joint political programme fulfilling in fact the needs now lying before our people, a joint political programme upon which we can agree all forces and all Omani national dignitaries apart from their varying potentialities and the dimension to which the struggle of this group or that in this gathering or that of this personality or that can proceed since all must fight on a joint political programme's base for realising defined, vital and major objectives standing at present before our people.

The other thing is the necessity of agreeing on an organisational programme or organisational internal regulations defining the nature of the relations that are to be established between all parties of the national alliance in Oman, all national forces and groups and all Omani

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national dignitaries. How such relations are to be established between them in the course of the struggle for realising the joint programme to be agreed upon by them. It is very important to refer in this respect to the importance that each group or each gathering or every organisation is to enjoy a full political and organisational independence within the framework of any alliance project. It is also important to refer to the importance of creating democratic relations within the framework of the alliance that excludes hegemony, individuality and fighting between the national parties and transformation of their secondary differences into hostile differences and creating relations safeguarding national unity of all Omani nationalists and democrats and to concentrate the struggle on the enemy, the common enemy, concentration of the struggle for achievement of the common objectives of all these parties. Any project for an organisational programme or organisational regulations for national unity and national alliance front in our country, is to exclude any form of trusteeship, any form of hegemony and any form that might be at the expense of the independence of each group completely in a political and organisational plan. These are, in our calculation, the most important bases upon which the national alliance and the national front in Oman are to stand.

Q.4 - Comrade Abdel Aziz. There numerous Omani national elements not belonging to political organisations but have stands towards the regime and its puppet policies. Will these elements enter the front in an independent manner and how their position and place would be in the framework of the proposed national front?

A.4 - Certainly there exist within the ranks of our people independent national personalities, national political personalities or religious national personalities or national personalities from certain nationalist tribal sheikhs. Any personalities of this type must have a place, and a proper place within the framework of the national unity of our people and within the framework of the common struggle of all groups of our people and its forces for expelling out the foreign forces and bases from Oman, and for public freedoms, for a non-aligned external policy. We are giving attention not only to the organisations, and not only to the political gatherings but also to the independent national personalities so long that these personalities are in fact nationalist personalities that can meet with the other parties on a joint minimum-limit programme that may share in one way or another,



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according to the existing energies of theirs and potentialities, in the struggle of the people and its national forces for realising the vital major objectives existing at present. Of course, the independent Omani national personalities must join the broad national alliance front in an independent manner on the consideration that they are national personalities and on consideration that they are dignitaries. These personalities, if in fact have their weight whether their historical political weight or religious weight amidst the ranks of our people and have an effective and impressive word amidst the ranks of their tribes, must in fact have a place and a decent and proper place inside the framework of the alliance front. However, the most important thing for us now is that we all unite so long that we are Omanis and meet together for demonstrating hostility to the foreign bases and hostility to colonialism, look for legislative institutions and a non-aligned and sound external policy, combined by objectives of such type or might agree to meet on objectives of such type which are in turn subject to dialogue with all other parties and personalities. All other difficulties can be pacified and overcome. However, the important thing is to agree all, all nationalist and democratic Omanis, on joint objectives and on a joint programme and a sound joint internal regulation with a democratic and sound essence.

Within this framework all struggle in accordance with their combat energies and Potentialities. There are many other forms for expressing our wishes and national and democratic ambitions, different and assorted forms to which we can resort for achieving our goals. For example, the religious sheikhs in our country can play a very important role in mobilising our people for freedoms and for expelling the foreign bases. It is not enough for the religious men to climb the platforms of mosques and speak about religious laws and give sermons, but they must link the essence of the Islamic call with the worries being suffered by our people now and the ambitions of our people for genuine independence and for democracy and social progress. The Islamic religion is not a religion for the colonialists. The Islamic religion was and still is opposing the foreign domination, oppression, injustice and exploitation and all these issues must be linked with the activities of the religious men in the ranks of the Omani people. This is one of the forms of the struggle, one of the forms of liberation and if we do not all share in it with the word, protest, leaflet, strikes, demonstrations and enlightenment amidst our people the American and

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and British colonialists are controlling and subjugating our people and lay feet to our land and use it as a base for aggression on the nearby friendly and brotherly peoples.

Q.5 - Comrade Abdel Aziz. At the level of the forms of struggle and its methods and the link between the political and massive struggle and the armed struggle, undoubtedly, there were mistakes in the past at the level of exercise by taking the armed struggle as the sole and only form of struggle. How would you explain this to the masses of our people and to our friends and what are, in your view, the struggle forms that will attract the attention of the front during the forthcoming stage?

A-5 - The front had in fact fell in some mistakes in this sphere which is connected with the struggle forms and the relations between the forms and methods of struggle. It fell in some mistakes during the period before 1975. The front did not hide its mistakes from the masses nor from its friends and any genuine revolutionary organisation expressing in fact the feelings and will of its people and masses must enjoy such features, the features of self-criticism and innumeration of its mistakes before the masses and before its friends. This is a positive feature, a feature of power and a very revolutionary feature enjoyed by our front. In this respect and during the periods of the previous struggle before 1975, we feel that the front did not give enough attention to the other struggle forms with the exception of the armed struggle. Of course, the armed struggle is very important, but there are numerous other struggle forms no less important than the armed struggle. The forms of the political and economic struggle with its different forms, the forms of the struggle that can be exercised by the masses but insufficient to spearhead the ranks of the front and the front's fighters and armed militants for waging armed battles with the forces of the puppet regime and its masters, but there is a very great role awaiting our masses and our masses are prepared basically to undertake such a role, a role through which appear clear different forms of resistance and political struggle in the shape of demonstrations, strikes, protests, gatherings and too many other violent and peaceful forms including the submission of economic and political demands by all forms of express and massive struggle. This is a very important sphere in the revolution and one of the basic conditions for realising



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its continuous development to final victory. Whatever are the heroisms demonstrated by us in the front at the level of armed confrontation and no matter how great is the number of martyrs introduced by us, if not endorsed by different types and forms of the struggles of our people at peaceful and non-peaceful political and economic levels, the armed struggle will remain stumbling and suffer net setbacks in the face of the supremacy of the armed forces of the imperialists and the puppet regime in Muscat. In the face of abandoning this armed struggle, it faces the war machines of the forces of imperialism and reaction, without the other important forms of struggle through which it is in fact possible to explode the vast struggle energies of our people and the balance of power is turned in favour of our people and in favour of the victory of its objectives for freedom and independence. We now affirm, and always, that the front and the struggle of our people in general, must use more differentiated methods and forms of struggle. The struggle forms cannot be defined by self desires. It is true that the conditions of Oman are based on the presence of direct occupation, the presence of imperialist military bases directly in our country, the presence of political British colonialist control over the puppet regime in Muscat and the presence of oppressive, individual and detective internal policy banning any form of freedom, peaceful massive expression, and prevented our people from peaceful expression of its ambitions, hopes, protests, and criticism of the policy adopted by the regime and its imperialist masters in Oman, all this makes the form of armed struggle important and essential for realising in full the strategic objectives of our people. But this fact does not at all belittle, even slightly, the importance of the non-armed struggle that can be carried out by the front and the masses through the word, demonstration and protest and through submission of peaceful demands and by resorting to all forms of massive struggle. These too, are forms of struggle for which the suitable and ripe objective circumstances are to be provided. They must constitute a prominent place in our struggle and in the struggle of our people for realising its objectives. They must be taken into full consideration in the entire strategy of the front and in Omani national unity as without achieving this perfection and this link in our forms of struggle and their connection with the forms of expression and protest in our country, our struggle cannot reach its required objectives, and this struggle

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is to stumble and suffer blows in the face of the tyranny of the enemies and their war machines and their numerous repressive means. Then, the armed struggle will remain an essential and important form as I said but not necessarily and at all times and in all conditions that it should be the leading and basic form. There might come a condition in which the political struggle is the leading and broadest struggle in the homeland beside the armed struggle, and so on. All that we are needed to do is to provide the factual conditions and necessary and suitable circumstances for the growth of our struggle with all its armed, political, economic, peaceful and non-peaceful forms for pushing our masses towards wresting their rights from their enemies. For example our workers, students, Omani woman and Omani youth all these must struggle also for wresting their legitimate right to form their own public and legitimate trade union organisations. They must wrest their right to strike and the workers must wrest their right to resist the exploitation of the foreign multi-national companies and the colonialist companies in our country. So is the case with the different other groups of our people. All this struggle takes place in link, certainly with the general national struggle which is centering on the major political issues standing before our people now - the question of realising freedom and independence, the question of expelling the foreign bases from our country. There are extensive potentialities for the appearance of numerous forms of struggle in our country. It is true that throughout its old history our people did not exercise enough combat traditions at the economic, trade union and political levels due to the economic and social backwardness in our country. If we revise the entire old history of our people and its history in resisting foreign invasion and colonialist interference in Oman, we will find that this people was resisting such invasion with nearly one form. This is the form of power, the form of arms, and the form of violence as there were no other means. But the situation has changed now. The political and national consciousness of our people developed and the changing economic status is oozing new facts and realities inside the homeland and there is crystalised amidst the ranks of our people, an even growing experience of different traditions of political, economic and social struggle which was lacked in the past. Without taking into the strategy, the innumeration of the struggle forms, and their perfection, the major part of the energies of our people will remain obstructed in the national and democratic battle in Oman.



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Therefore, we stress upon continuing our adherence to different forms of struggle and not to restrict the national movement in our country to one struggle form and regard this as the only revolutionary and struggle form in all circumstances. For example, when a demonstration now comes out under the prevailing situation in Muscat, Nizwa or Sallalah or any other part of Oman asking for the evacuation of the American and British forces and bases or asking the abolition of the 4th June agreement with the United States of America, this constitutes a very great value more worth than three, four or five military battles undertaken by the front. We have, for example, intellectuals in our country drafting a protest note or memorandum asking the regime to reduce the oppressive and detective chains and to give more freedom to the press, printing and publication in our country. This is also carrying a very big value than one, two or three armed battles waged by the front against the forces of the puppet regime, since the value of the struggle forms are measured by their political, moral and massive meanings due to the reactions they may cause inside the homeland and also at the level of external policy in the Arab homeland and the world.

Q.6 - After the opening by puppet Qaboos of the Omani waters and territories to the American rapid deployment forces and the other imperialist countries, what is the extent of danger this poses to the peoples of the area and their national regimes?

A.6 - Throughout the past year, the year lying between our celebrations last year of the ignition day of our revolution and our celebrations this year, the United States of America continued its activities and efforts for escalating its military presence in our country and completing the construction of its military bases on Masirah island and in Massendum state which is overlooking Hormuz Strait directly, this strategic state in spite of the smallness of its area. There exists in this state only at present not less than 12,000 soldiers from the American navy who are part of the rapid deployment forces in the Gulf Peninsula area. The United States of America in this area is also drilling a tunnel in Ras Massendum to link the waters of the Arabian Gulf with the waters of the Sea of Oman for American military use. In addition to this, this state was placed in full under the administration of the American commanders in connection with its entire affairs and civil and military affairs on the consideration that it became a closed military area for the Americans in our homeland. This is a

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great and very serious development. In addition to the fact that the United States of America has cut a large distance in the construction of its military and air bases in Masirah island, the island which the United States of America is planning to convert into a striking strategic base at very remote range and draws for it important roles in its entire strategy towards the area of the Indian Ocean, the United States of America has also completed during this period the construction of a military airport for it supplemented to the Thamreet base. The American aircraft are now using this airport which has been turned into an airport in bound for the American forces and attached to Thamreet airport. Taking place also is the construction of a new airport to the north of Hebroot and close to the borders with Democratic Yemen. It is not excluded that this airport is to be placed also under the service of the American rapid deployment forces in accordance with the plan of the United States of America and its forthcoming aggressive projects in conformity with the powers and concessions granted to it in the agreement of 4th June, 1980.

The United States of America is now stocking on our territory, in addition to the developed traditional weapons, nuclear weapons on Masirah island and nuclear weapons on military frigates and the American military pieces existing in our territorial waters. We do not forget that the United States has frankly hinted on more than one occasion on the possibility of the launching of limited nuclear wars, the spreading of tensions and interference and military adventures. This is in addition to the large number of military pieces of the United States of America and its allies now existing in the waters of Oman and the entrance of the Gulf and the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean which amounted to more than sixty military pieces for the United States of America and its allies and in particular Britain, Germany and France. Of course the biggest part of these pieces belongs to the United States of America and they number nearly forty American military pieces in this area. Here, we must recall the statements of the United States of America repeated on several occasion by its senior officials and saying that the area of the Gulf is regarded upto now as an area of vital interests for the United States of America and that the security of the Gulf area, as they call it, is regarded as part of the security of the United States of America. In this way the imperialism of the United States of America is dealing with the



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peoples of the area and the countries of the area and with the interests of these peoples which it regards as part and parcel of its interests and security. The vast oil wealths in the Gulf area are now regarded in the view of the Americans as lively interests to them and not to the peoples of the area and the security of the gulf area is regarded by them as a cause coming within their power and responsibility and not from the powers and responsibilities of the countries of the area and their peoples and national movement.

This is in addition to the statements of Margaret Thatcher, British Prime Minister, which we certainly heard, as the British Prime Minister affirmed more than once her desire but great enthusiasm to take part in the project for the American rapid deployment forces and sent military pieces to this area in addition to the fact that Britain increased several times its Military presence, and its commanders and officers in Oman. For example, during her recent tour of the Gulf area, in which the visit of Oman occupied a prominent and special position, she made a very serious and strange statement, as she criticised the British decision which was taken by Britain and which calls for the withdrawal of Britain in 1971 from the Gulf area. Margaret Thatcher regarded this decision as a mistaken decision. This means that it was in correct and unsound that Britain is to withdraw from this area and to give its state political independence. Criticism by the British Premier of the decision to withdraw from the Gulf means in verse and clearly her conviction that the peoples of this area are still immature and are not capable for freedom and independence. This also reveals her forthcoming intentions and plan towards this area, reveals the joint Anglo-American intentions to bring back this area to colonialist control; directly and to the era of old colonialism. Certainly the launching point and springboard would be the area of Oman on the consideration that it's now gathering point for the American and British forces. The puppet Muscat regime, in the tongue of Qaboos, circulated and called more than once the importance of the presence of American and British imperialism militarily in the Gulf area in general and in Oman only under fake slogans and excuses of facing the dangers of communism and communist march and so on and so forth, the same old tune and weak reasons which the puppets are using for reasoning the colonialist influence and direct colonialist military presence in our area. The front warned more than once to the seriousness of the current political developments in Oman and to the danger of the fall completely of the

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puppet Qaboos regime in the laps of the imperialist and British forces and its increasing treasons and full preparedness to give bases and facilities to these countries in our country and its complete preparedness to share in playing any role for the interference of these imperialist forces and their military plans towards the Gulf area.

Q.7 - Comrade Abdel Aziz. What is your imagination on the future of combined official Gulf activity especially after the formation of the Gulf cooperation and what is the proper and sound stand that must be taken against the puppet Qaboos regime?

A.7 - A combined Gulf official activity must, in our view, spring from the base of consolidating and safeguarding the independence of peoples and the countries of this area, and to keep away from any form of imperialist military presence in it. It must spring from the development of the official corporations of the countries of this area towards a more democratic attitude and to give these regimes a more deep democratic concept. It must spring from coordinated and combined activity towards economic, social and cultural cooperation in a shape serving in fact the ambitions and wishes of the peoples of this area. Such measurement and such scale is not clear upto now and did not come in the meetings held by the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The big, important and basic question remaining now are the serious dangers facing this area and placing it on the doorsteps of lying once again under the American and British colonialist influence directly. This is the most important issue in our belief before which must stand any efforts being made officially by the countries of this area. We, and the entire national movement in this sensitive area are not against any economic cooperation, cultural cooperation and closeness and coordination in the information sphere and communications sphere in particular, if these efforts would in fact be in the interest of the unity of the peoples of this area and their development and prosperity. But there remains the basic and important issue which worries our minds all and the minds of the peoples of this area as well as the public opinion in the areas neighbouring us and the world public opinion. This is the safeguarding of the independence of the countries of this area and the consolidation and deepening of this independence and expulsion of the new and great dangers that face the area now as a result of the American and British imperialist policy and due to the results reached by the political line of the puppet Qaboos regime. The countries of



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the Gulf Cooperation Council or some of them deny completely the presence of any political or security design for the project of the Gulf Cooperation Council. In our belief such denial is incorrect, since all know that the Gulf Cooperation council, at the Muscat meeting, the meeting of the Foreign Ministers, approved the formation of a higher council for the Gulf Cooperation council. This higher council discusses, approves and modifies the supreme policy of the countries of the area. This means that the basic issue is a political issue and the military and security spheres follow certainly the political sphere and linked with the political issue. What has the Gulf Cooperation Council done upto now towards the basic and biggest issue that concerns now the peoples of the area before anything else. What has it done towards the increase of the American and British military presence in the area? What has it done for safeguarding the independence of the countries of this area and expulsion of the dangers of war and termination of tensions in it. Why the cooperation council did not come out from all its meetings with a frank call to the foreign countries entirely to withdraw all their bases and military fleets from this area? Why the council did not adopt anything upto now for giving an end to the national treasors being committed by the Muscat regime continuously and the committance of the ugliest crimes against our people, against the peoples of the Gulf and Peninsula area and against the peoples of the Arab nation. All these queries are the basic queries which need an answer in addition to an answer for the crisis of democracy and freedoms in this area. Why the cooperation council did not come out with a clear, defined and collective stand over the peaceful initiatives laid down for restoring security and stability to this area and keeping it away from foreign military bases and fleets. Why it did not take a collective, frank and defined stand over, for instance, the initiative made by the Soviet Union which calls for the withdrawal of all military bases, forces and fleets from this area, respect of its independence and non-alignment, respect of its sovereignty over its oil wealths and the creation of assurances of not interfering in its internal affairs in future? Why the Gulf Cooperation Council did not come out upto now with a clear, defined and collective stand over the initiative made by Democratic Yemen for holding a conference for the countries of this area and the Horn of Africa for discussing the withdrawal of all bases and fleets from the area? Why the cooperation council is escaping from the basic and fundamental issue which now needs discussion and solution, the issue that places the area entirely

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in front of serious dangers and instead the council is restricted to the resolutions for economic, cultural and information cooperation. It instead adopts a resolution for revising mediation between the puppet Muscat regime and the regime in Democratic Yemen. Why such deviation of attention from the basic issue does not apply to sub-issues, to issues whose solution at the end depend upon the basic big issue dealt with by us before. Democratic Yemen was, and still is, endeavouring for a good neighbourhood with all countries of this area and for the establishment of normal relations with them as announced by the officials of this country more than once provided that this takes place on genuine bases and measures providing security and real and actual stability in this area on bases excluding merger in aggressive military pacts, hospitalisation of foreign bases and fleets in the territories and waters of the area provided this takes place on basis of genuine normal relations capable of continuity, stay and steadfastness. The American and British foreign bases now existing on Omani territories and waters which threaten with danger all countries and peoples of the area, are not an internal question that concerns Qaboos alone or connected with Oman only, since the dangers from the presence of these bases and fleets threatens the entire security and stability in this area and threatens the independence of the peoples and countries of this area without exception and threatens the independence and peoples of the countries of the nearby areas.

Qaboos and the American and British imperialists are they who were and are still eager to establish obstacles before the establishment of normal relations with Democratic Yemen and the national regimes in the neighbouring areas, and were creating always tension and pave the atmospheres in the area towards the attitude that does not allow the establishment of normal relations between its countries. Perhaps all recall that one and a half years or two years ago, there was a mediation bid between the puppet Muscat regime and Democratic Yemen undertaken by Kuwait. At a time in which endeavours were proceeding to this end, the Muscat regime was concluding more agreements and treaties with American imperialism for establishing American bases in our country and to give extensive facilities to the United States of American in Oman which were crowned at the end by the signing of the agreement of 4th June, 1980.

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Now that the countries of the area are trying again to renew their endeavours for the establishment of such relations, the Muscat regime calls for the merger of the countries of the Gulf area, and Oman in the foreward of course, to the NATO treaty. Such policies, such stands, and such permanent attitude of hiredom and linkage with the foreign forces abolish and prevent the presence of natural atmospheres and suitable for the establishment of normal relations with the countries of the area. The forces of imperialism and their puppet the Muscat regime are always eager to render tense the atmospheres in this area and to keep conditions as they are serving the objective of the forces of imperialism at interference and at controlling the countries of this area.

The biggest mark of shame in the forehead of the Gulf Cooperation Council was that it accepted the holding of the Foreign Ministers conference of the six states in Muscat at a time in which joint American-Sadat-Qaboos manouevres were proceeding on Omani territory. The biggest mark of shame in the forehead of the council is the presence of this regime in the membership of this council, this regime which is proceeding further and further towards pushing the area to the edge of war, the edge of instability and the edge of joint American and British colonialist influence. Once again we repeat that we are not against the establishment of the cooperation council in principle provided that this council is founded on bases hostile to imperialism, hostile to military pacts, hostile to American imperialist interference in the affairs of the area, hostile to the military intelligence of the United States of America and its allies in our area; and on the bases and efforts of deepening the form of independence of these regimes and safeguarding their independence and consolidating it further and further, solving the obstacle of democracy and freedoms in the area since these bases, in our calculation, are bases providing the correct answer to the real obstacles being faced by our area at the present circumstance.

Q.8 - Comrade Abdel Aziz. Please allow me to put up another question linked with the first question. This is: what are in your view the bases upon which the security and stability in the Gulf area are established?

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4.8 - This in fact a question linked with the former question. I have already explained these bases in my reply to the previous questions and in particular our imagination on these bases which is withdrawal and liquidation of all foreign bases, forces and fleets from this area, to guarantee non-participation in the foreign aggressive military pacts which threaten the independence, security and sovereignty of the peoples of the area and adherence to this by the side of the Muscat regime in a basic manner and commitment to the stand and sovereignty of the policy of the non-aligned countries, guarantee of non-interference in the affairs of the area, respect of its sovereignty over their oil wealths and other wealths, to leave the peoples of the area solve their own problems and internal issues away from the interference of foreign countries, to leave every people and every political entity solve its internal problems by itself away from the interference of any other state. These, in our calculation, are the basic bases and basic scales which, if existed, would provide in fact a firm and genuine ground for the stability and security of the countries of the Gulf and Peninsula area?

Q.9 - Comrade Abdel Aziz. How would you assess your relations with the Iranian revolution and to what extent these relations reached?

A.9 - Iran now, and since the fall of the Shah's regime, became in the rank of the forces hostile to imperialism and its leader the imperialism of the United States of America and hostile to Israel. So we are eager to establish relations of close solidarity with the Iranian revolution. The front had made several visits to Teheran and found in fact good understanding and response from the side of the officials it met in Teheran. The Horizons for development of relations between us and the Iranian revolution are not little but we must notice that Iran is still suffering from several internal problems and conditions in the inside are still instable. This is in addition to the break out of the Iraqi-Iranian war during the recent period. All this makes the Iranian revolution tied to a very great extent to its internal conditions. We look to the time in which we are able, along with the officials in Iran, of causing new development in the bilateral relations between us. We wish that the officials in Iran and in Iraq reach a quick settlement for the war existing between the two countries because the continuation of this war only serves at the end the implementation of the plans of imperialism and in particular the American, in the area. We hope that the Iranian revolution is able to overcome the total



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obstacles in the inside and we expect further development of the bilateral relations between us on the base of the common struggle against imperialist, reaction and zionism.

Q.10 - Comrade Abdel Aziz. There are many contradictory statements by Iranian officials on the question of the three Omani islands occupied by the Shah in 1971. What is the attitude of the front towards this and how do you view the question of solving this issue?

A.10 - The front had already laid down its vision on a solution for this question and its stand towards it on previous occasion. We now renew and affirm our stand on this question on the consideration that these are in fact Omani Arab territories belonging to the Emirates States and occupied by the invading puppet Shah forces in 1971. No one can ignore the Omani Arab identity of these islands apart from the contradiction existing in the statements made by some Iranian officials. But at the same time we see that the time at present is not ripe for stirring sharp differences on this topic on the consideration that there are common dangers facing the peoples of this area, the peoples of the Gulf area whether Arab or Iranian; dangers due to the conspiracies of American imperialism and American imperialist aggressive interference. The vital issue now standing before us is the issue of solidarity and strengthening of solidarity further and further between the Arab peoples and the Iranian peoples between the Arab nation and the Iranian nation, the strengthening of this solidarity and brotherhood between the two nations on the basis of the common struggle against imperialism and its plans and against zionism. It is impossible to make the present question of the islands overcome this basic and vital question especially that we believe in the possibility of reaching a democratic solution through dialogue with the Iranian revolution on this question and in the appropriate time. We refused and still refuse that the present issue of the islands is transformed into a point of conflict and sharp differences between the peoples of the area and the Iranian peoples, between the Arabs and the revolution in Iran and end, instead, we call for the strengthening of the bonds of alliance and solidarity, the strengthening of the common struggle against imperialism and increase of the danger of American imperialism against this area and the peoples of this area in general and Iranian alike.

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Q.11 - Comrade Abdel Aziz. The puppet authority announced its budget and economic plan for this year. What are your most important remarks on this?

A.11 - The consideration is not for what is announced or laid down for the future as on many occasions the regime announces such plans and announces its attitudes, intentions and promises in connection with the future. But then comes actual implementation and practical exercise to reveal results which appear mostly alternative to what was outlined in the theoretical plans. This is in connection with the annual budgets or in connection with the five-year plans. The first five-year plan previously and the second five-year plan at present are also covered by this. This, in our view, is due to general chaos that covers the State corporations and the absence of concentrated economic planning and concentrated national economic attitude and to the absence of a national source supervising the economic issues of our country and directing them, supervising the development of the country in a real manner and in a way paying heed to the interests of our people and its different groups. There are some basic remarks which I want to lay down in connection with the budget announced for this year, and this can be traced in previous budgets and in five-year plans, as a great part of the budget is continuously allocated for the Defence Ministry. This year it is estimated that the sultanate is to allocate the sum of 582 million Omani riyals only for the Defence Ministry and this constitutes approximately half the budget fixed for 1981. This is certainly proving the absence of national planning and a national source supervising truly the direction of the economy of the country and its potentialities to serve the interests of the broad groups of the people and their lively issues. What is the justification for allocating half the annual State budget for the Defence Ministry, of which a great part will certainly go for the purchase of more weapons for advancing more and more in the arms race which is being fed by the forces of imperialism and in particular the United States of America in the Gulf area in general to serve the interests of its military monopolistic industrial complexes. Our Omani people is in need of having its lively issues connected with its living in the first place, solved, is in need of promotion of its living standard in all spheres and at all levels. New and new and new arms transactions with American imperialism, with British imperialism and with Germany at a time in which our people is suffering from backward communications



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and from backward medical services and educational services and the absence of decent opportunities fitting its living and vast areas of Oman still suffer from backwardness dreadfully like that standard left behind by former Sultan Saeed bin Taimour. How is it to be justified that although eleven years have passed on the implementation of the reforms programme of the government of the British advisers and their puppet Qaboos, that there does not exist in Oman upto now more than 160 doctors all over the Sultanate and that there does not exist in its few hospitals more than 1700 beds for a million and a half of the population of Oman. . . There are many spheres to speak about in this connection. Our people does not accept nor wish to enter the arms race game of which only the forces of imperialism will benefit. As part of the budget fixed for the Defence Ministry this year, a very big portion amounting to hundreds of millions of Omani riyals will be allocated for the purchase of new deals of weapons. Does Qaboos and his imperialist masters believe that by piling up more and more weapons and turning our country into an arsenal for different weapons, they will be able to crush and extinguish the wish of our people and to protect their regime and control over our country? Or are they adopting this policy to enable Oman play its role in the forthcoming aggressive plans against the countries and peoples of the area. Certainly these are the real intentions of the regime due to its eagerness to continue firmly this policy, the policy of allocating a big percentage of the national income of the backward country for development of the repressive military institutions and the purchase of more military deals. We also notice that the regime, in all its plans including its annual plan for this year, credits major attention to development in the sphere of appearance and shape, the spheres that give certain fictitious illumination that does not serve in fact the fundamental material interests of the masses of our people. It pays attention and great care to the construction of huge buildings for government corporations and for companies and banks which do not serve at the end but the interests of the forces of imperialism and the ruling class in our country. This existing and taking place at a time in which huge obstacles remain unsolved. These include problems suffered by the peasants, and fishermen, shepherds and nomadic bedouins in our country. The

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The regime did not proceed towards creating real solutions practical and fruitful solutions or solving the obstacles of these people. The regime did not proceed even, in its present plan, towards laying down panels for the economy of our country on a strong base. trying to find other firm and good sources of income other than oil. Oil upto now constitutes the main source of income

The line of non-centralisation of industry, and the line of converting the economy of the country more and more from public to private is the basic and fundamental reason for the economic stagnancy of our country and the presence of general chaos in the disposal of the national production of the country and the disposal of the potentialities of the country in the economic field. The sole beneficiary from this at the end are certainly the foreign monopoly companies including the multi-national companies, and perhaps the major compradors in our country. As to the other groups of the people, they certainly contravene with such attitude. It is to be noticed that upto now there does not exist in our country a real national source supervising directly the disposal of the economy of the country and directing the development plans in Oman. Instead we find special councils for every ministry in Oman. Today there exists in Oman a special council for the Defence Ministry, a council for defence, a council for the Ministry of Gas and Oil and Minerals, and for finance a financial council and so on and so forth. In these councils exist foreign British advisers and others who direct in fact the economy of the country in favour of their colonialist countries and their monopoly companies. In this way the ministries created by the regime only possess the name while the real powers exist in these councils which have in them foreign advisers and experts coming from the British and foreign colonialist countries.

So it is to be understood that the general attitude is to grant extensive facilities to the foreign companies operating in Oman while the Omani national companies or mixed companies do not secure such extensive concessions. The foreign companies also received upto now full exemption from taxes for a period of five years and then ten years and perhaps more while the Omanis receive no such concessions.



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-- Comrade Abdel Aziz. Is there any word that you want to address at the end of our conversation?

-- My last word is to extend once again greetings in the name of the Central Executive committee and all militants of the front to all our Omani national masses everywhere in Oman on the 16th anniversary of the detonation of the revolution, to greet these masses from the bottom of our hearts for their steadfast stands in solidarity with the struggle of the front and for the great sacrifices being incurred by them for the victory of our national issues. I also urge all our masses to raise their voice high and loudly in the face of the successive crimes committed by the puppet Muscat regime which reached the limit of insanity, and to stand in the face of the American and British bases and the facilities given to American imperialism, in the face of the increase of repression and oppression and the detective shape of the regime and in the face of the treasons against our national issues and the issue of Palestine.

I also address tribute and warmly, on this occasion, to our steadfast and brave militants in the areas of the fighting where very difficult and complicated combat conditions prevail. I also greet their huge sacrifices for the steadfastness of the revolution and realisation of its victory. At the end I say that we will stick to the promise undertaken by us and our motto will remain always victory or death. Certainly we will achieve victory.

Finally I wish here to thank you in the name of the Central Information committee of the front to thank you for giving us this opportunity on the occasion of the 16th anniversary and for holding this important dialogue and conversation which undoubtedly dealt with the most important issues and obstacles being passed by our homeland and the area as a whole. Thank you.

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